The Orthodox Herald

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HONOR ALSO

On May 11 Americans will honor their birth mothers. In May this year, the Church will also honor the Myrrhbearing Women (Mark 15:43-16:8) on May 11 and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-42) on May 25.

There are many other groups of women in the Church who may be classified as mothers, although they may not be birth mothers. There are the women who teach religious education classes. They usually have their classrooms in underlighted basements of churches, put up with students who attend sporadically, spend their own money for supplies, and lack direction or help in planning curriculum. They are always there waiting for the children, and then one year they slip away unhonored and forgotten.

I received a most interesting letter from Annastazia Zahirsky, mother of Fr. Michael. She wrote, "I want to thank you for continuing **The Orthodox Herald,** as I have kept every issue since June of 1961. They were the only paper (Material) we had to teach Sunday School with in our basement. We had 23 children here in Portage County and Akron was too far to go. So Mrs. Mary Kuyon and I started, with the help of Mrs. Mary Karaffa, for awhile in our homes."

Have you honored your Sunday School teacher? Past and present?

Another group of women who deserve to be honored are the priests' wives. Among the few who announce that they weren't hired "It's his job" are the hundreds who take their position as the mother of the parish seriously. According to what is needed, she is there to fill in. She sings for Holy Days, teaches religious classes, helps the perohi workers, runs off the bulletin, helps at baptisms and, most importantly, is "given to hospitality." They follow St. Paul's instructions to the Romans 12:6:

(Continued on Page 3 Col. 1)

PRAYER FOR MILITARY

We thank Thee, O Lord our God for all the blessings which Thou givest us. Thou hast kept us by Thy power in good health during the night and Thou has called us up from sleep, that we may enjoy the light of day and to marvel at Thy Majesty. We entreat Thee, O Lord, grant that we may live this day without danger or sin, but full of Thy mercies and Thy divine care. Protect my family and the families of my fellow-servicemen from all evil. Enlighten the peoples who conquer and torture other nations; make them repent and seek peace, leaving other lands and their dwellers free. Open Thou the eyes of our mind to see Thy divine law and incline our hearts ever to do Thy commandments, to the glory of Thine all-holy Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

O Thou Loving Father of us all, Who are here and everywhere, let Thy blessing be upon my loved ones at home. Keep them in Thy gracious care, protect them by Thy power and make their hearts glad in the thought of Thy nearness. Help them and help me to feel that however separated we are by distance, in Thee we are close to each other. Amen.

A SERVICEMAN'S PRAYER

Chaplain W. Basil Stroyen, USAF, wrote to Metropolitan Leonty during the Korean War, asking him for a prayer which would be appropriate for use by the servicemen under his care. This prayer was sent to him. He had copies made for distribution and for pasting in the Divine Liturgy book, which was used at Services. It was recited by the congregation following the Services and used by many of the servicemen in their daily lives. Just two years ago a copy was sent to him by a serviceman, who had kept it in his wallet since 1955. As this is written, our nation is involved in a war again. Make copies of the prayer and send it to your serviceperson.

SAINTS' CALENDAR

On May 7/20 we commemorate St. Alexius of Wilkes-Barre, who was recognized as a saint only nine years ago. In his kondak he is identified as the "defender and confessor of the faith." It is easy to forget how much instruction he had to give to persuade people to follow him into the Orthodox faith. This can be found in some of the hymns of the services in his honor. We read: "You become a teacher of many, revealing through your books and sermons the spiritual treasures of the Orthodox Faith."

His sermons were instructional, practical, and easy to comprehend. Part of one he gave in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1907 reads: "We have not introduced any changes and serve the Divine Services as they were served by St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great; we have them as they were served by SS Cyril and Methodius. This is how it will be until the end of the world.

Therefore, to shorten the Divine Services or omit them altogether is to decrease the understanding of events by the faithful and especially by those who only recently became Orthodox.

...Speaking of mercy, it is your obligation to do good deeds and you have to do them continuously and at least one every day for other people, church or school.

Many of our parishioners, who work in mines, have the opportunity of purchasing cheaper coal – do not forget the widows and children, the unemployed, the injured, the church and the school. Those who work in grocery stores or some other places have also the opportunity to assist others. There are people who are in need of oil for their lamps and shoe repair. Maybe there is someone who needs help in their repair of a roof. If your roof does not leak, it does not mean that your brother's roof is in

(Continued on Page 3 Col. 1)

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News CHRONOLOGY

MAY 2003

This issue was mailed around April 19.

FROM JUNE 27 THROUGH JULY 3, St. Innocent Antiochian Parish, PO Box 389, Everson, WA 98247 (Phone 360/966-2375) is sponsoring a llama backpacking trip for teens from 13-19.

CLOTH PATCHES in black and gold, about 2 1/2 inches round for attaching on baseball cap, jacket, etc., are available from St. Jude's Shrine Bookstore, 594 Fifth St. NE, Barberton, OH 44203 for $2 plus 37¢ stamp. This is a gold three-bar cross on a black background.

A TRAVELING EXHIBIT "Icons or Portraits? Images of Jesus and Mary from the collection of Michael Hall," sponsored by the American Bible Society, contains 114 works dating from the 12th through the 20th centuries will be shown at the Mobile Museum of Art through June 8, the Evansville Museum of Art, History and Science from July 8 through October 13, and the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, CA from November 8 through January 18, 2004. A catalog may be purchased for $45 from 800/32 BIBLE request item 12708.

THOSE PLANNING AN OVERSEAS FLIGHT can receive help on preventive medicine by accessing: www.cdc.gov/travel or the safety of certain areas by accessing: travel.state.gov. Help can also be found on osha.gov/dts/tib and selecting "Safety and Health During International Travel" in the 2002 column. This is OSHA's first bulletin.

THE INTERNET IS A RELATIONSHIP BREAKER according to an article in The Times of London. "Husbands and wives complain of becoming Internet widowers or widows after being left to sit alone as a partner spends hours at the computer messaging strangers in chat rooms, downloading music and games or looking at pornography." Internet sites that enable people to revive old romances by E-mail, as well as experience cybersex, can also threaten marital harmony.

MYSTERY WORSHIPPERS – there are currently 180 who work undercover at undisclosed locations worldwide. They provide anonymous reviews of a church service other than their own and help churches to see how they really look to outsiders. They put a card into the collection plate that lists Web site: www.ship-of-fools.com, where parishioners can read their evaluation.

UKRAINE'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS MATTERS released information as of January 2003. It shows that there are 27,480 religious communities that profess 54 different religions. There were 1,423 new parishes in 2002 of which 726 are Orthodox and 525 of these belong to the Ukraine Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate. This gives this group a total of 10,040 parishes. The Greek Catholic Church has 3,334 communities, Orthodox Church - Kyvian Patriarchate 3,196, Baptist Church has 2,272, Pentecostal Evangelical has 1,366, Autocephalous Orthodox has 1,110, Seventh-Day Adventist has 928, Roman Catholic has 847, Charismatic has 790, Jewish communities are 262, Muslim communities have 320. Orthodox have a total of 14,346. There are 2,323 religious buildings in construction with 430 being funded by the state.

ALTHOUGH CHURCHES WERE ONCE AN integral part of a community, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in a case in Abington Township, PA that towns can now bar houses of worship from residential areas due to possible noise or traffic problems. The court said: "We do not believe land-use planners can assume anymore that religious uses are inherently compatible with family and residential uses."

NO HISTORICAL OR THEOLOGICAL BASIS for the ordination of women as deacons was found by the 30-member panel of advisors to the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine. After five years of research, they concluded that the office of deacon is closely linked to the priesthood, from which women are excluded, and deaconesses of the early church couldn't be compared to deacons.

IN SOUTH AFRICA most Orthodox are of Greek, Russian or Serbian descent. Most of the parishes are composed of immigrants from these countries. A new parish has been organized in Soshanguve dedicated to St. Seraphim, which for the first time will have as its members mainly South Africans.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CLERGY have been advised in a liturgical worship supplement not to wear gym shoes, cowboy boots, slippers or sandals under their albs (stikhar) during worship.

THE BIBLE has been translated into 2,285 languages with the release of the Inuit language Bible. "Trying to translate a culture of sheep, camels, donkeys and palm trees into one built around seals, walruses and very few plants was difficult. For example, the Bible has many words for palm trees. But in Canada's northernmost territory there are no trees at all, which makes them hard to describe." Inuktitut is the mother tongue of about 28,000 Canadians.

FOR THE FIRST TIME Orthodox Christmas, January 7, was celebrated as a national holiday in Egypt, which is a predominately Muslim country. Coptic Christians make up about 10 percent of the population. Even some politicians attended services at the Cairo cathedral, which was filled with worshippers.

IN SPITE OF THE DECISION to cancel the meeting of SCOBA bishops in May at Antiochian Village, 8 hierarchs and many clergy participated in the Sunday or Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New York.

THERE IS NO NATIONAL MEMORIAL for the victims of the holocaust ordered by Stalin. Near Moscow there are two sites where mass killings were carried out in the 1930s. Only 20 miles south of Moscow the remains of at least 8,000 lie forgotten. While in Butovo, just outside the city, it is believed that 20,000 more lie where they were shot and buried in 1937-38. Even their names are nowhere to be found.

(Continued from front page)
HONOR ALSO

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us." Given to hospitality but fast disappearing are the wives of priests, who always had a pot of soup and slices of fresh bread on hand to serve to anyone. The soups were varied but always nourishing and appreciated.

How about the women who are found of knowledge about the parish. They are the ones to call when you need to know where something is in the kitchen, they know the history of the parish, they are active in all the organizations, and the parish is often referred to as "Mrs. ... Church." They are the ones who continue the traditions of the parish even between priest assignments. They remind me of the Babas who kept the churches of Russia open during the Communist era. From notes we receive, we need more of these Babas to keep order during church services in many parishes.

And then there are the women who are so concerned about spreading knowledge about the Orthodox Church that they start lending libraries or order hand-out literature for their parish. Many women either sponsor **The Orthodox Herald** or see to its distribution in the parish, placing it in a literature rack so that a visitor may pick it up and learn about the Church. They are doing Mission Work in their own vicinity. Other women order gift subscriptions to the "Herald" and other publications.

Of course, there may be many other groups of women not mentioned. They may not be honored on earth, but may God accept their labours.

(Continued from front page)
SAINTS' CALENDAR

order. Many of our women parishioners also have many opportunities to assist the needy, to help with sewing, bringing food or cooking for those who are sick and alone. Visit the sick. This is what has been done by your forefathers and their forefathers and that should be an example for you.

Do not forget our traditional greeting – Glory be to Jesus Christ!

When you come to your Spiritual Father Confessor you should be able to say that you did all this. Amen!"

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Mareea,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot shutko barz going pretty good. Nech novoho except yah neh feeluyou dobre noh barz bad. Yah neh znala che yah mala flu eelee bronck. Me staree dostal takee scared nah me condition zhe ohn call doctora ee make me appointment. Yah male takee sore throat ee mala takee fever.

Yah neh znala whether yah be making it doh doctora boh yah feeling tak weak ee me hhorachka making me sweat noh yah peeshla dostate help.

Yah neznam why they make appointments. Yah mushela sitting for two hodenu in waiting room. Tam yah kashlu ee druhee kashlyayut. Yah dumam ked yah neh hvora kolle yah peeshla doh doctora yah sure to catch shostka tam. Finally kolee yah about to give up and go to domu doh bed, ohne calluyut meme, ee bralee money doh druh room esche chekatee nah doctora. Kolee me getting into room yah kazhuy she it's so cold in here, noh djivka kazke me – "not really, take all your clothes off from the waist up, and put this on." Yah dala protest. Noh ohna insisting yak ohna dala me take malee gown ot paperyah to put on. Yah started datee protest zhe it's too cold and I'm feeling bad already noh ohna started to talk to me as I was a child and ohna insisted yah put on the gown, like ohne me kazhe. Yah got taka mad zhe ohna neh sluha mene zhe yah kazhu; "No."

Ohna went out ee came back with the nurse. Ohna was even worse, ee kazhe: "Now Anna be a good girl and put the gown on." Takee very sweet voice ohna using yak doh djityene or somebody a little slow. Yah, tried last time; "It's so cold in here. Look at my goosepimples." Ohna getting mad but trying not to show it and she said: "Now put on your gown like we told you to it makes it easier for the doctor to listen to your chest."

Yah dumam. OK. If you treat me like a baby, I'll act like one. Yah made a little more fuss Yah had a plan in mind. Yah made a little more fuss and then yah kazhuy: "OK, I feel too bad to fight. You want me to put the paper gown on, I will." Kolee ohne retreated from the room, yah nadjela gown over me blouse and sweater and sat on the examining table. I did what they asked didn't I?

Yah znam zhe ohne povelee doctora about difficult patient boh ohn came into the room looking takee stern noh kolee he saw what I did, he turned his face so that I could not see him smiling and ohn kazhe: Glamouroutfil you got there." Yah kashuy thanks, I followed orders.

Budte stravee,

Vasha glamorous niece, Hanya

RISE AND MAKE YOUR BED

In the Epistle reading from Acts 9:32-42, we read about the healing of a man called Aeneas who had lain paralyzed for eight years. Peter told him: "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed."

Let's hear these words. They hold an important lesson for our spiritual life. By accepting us as His adopted children in Jesus, our Lord, (we are all His children by virtue of being created by Him as well), our Almighty Father gave us an extraordinary privilege. Jesus put it this way: "Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14).

What a promise! Peter restored Aeneas' ability to walk and to make his own bed by using this treasure which we have all inherited from our Lord. And Jesus honoured his faith with the healing that he requested. But He also asked something of Aeneas in return.

Peter and His Master, Jesus, asked Aeneas to do something to express his faith that he had received God's gift. Aeneas had to make his bed. Until that time he had not been able to. From now on everything would be different. He would do everything like that for himself. But he had to start right away.

Have we asked Jesus for something as well? It is quite possible that He has already given it to us! Let's act in faith. Let us proceed as though we already have what we asked for and see what happens.Let's not let our fear and our laziness keep us from enjoying the Lord's bounty. Let us rise up and make our own bed!

Ihor George Kutash, Priest

WHY THE SAINTS ARE IMPORTANT

Although we see names of saints listed for every day of the year on our wall calendars, and we hear a list of names mentioned at the end of the Divine Liturgy, and we see icons of them on the inconostas and walls of the church, do we wonder why they have such a prominent place in the Orthodox Church? We hear the phrase "Communion of saints" from some of our friends, do we believe in this also? St. John of Kronstadt answered these questions many years ago.

"We ought to have the most lively spiritual union with the dwellers in heaven: the apostles, prophets, martyrs, saintly bishops, confessors, in fact with all the saints, as they are all members of the one body, the Church of Christ, to which we all sinners here on earth also belong. The living Head of this body is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

This is why we call upon them in prayer, talk with them, thank and praise them. It is very important for every Christian to be in contact with them if he desires to make progress in his Christian life: for the saints are our friends, our guides to salvation, who pray and intercede for us.

It is as true in the spiritual life as it is here in earthly life that there are the poor and the rich. As the poor here on earth ask for charity from the rich and cannot live without help from them, so it is also true in the spiritual order that the poor must have recourse to the rich. We, here on earth, are generally the spiritually poor; while the saints, and the few living among us who, by their faith and piety, are the spiritually rich. It is to them that we, the spiritually needy, must make appeal. We must beg for their prayers that they may teach us spiritual wisdom, how to conquer sin, and become as trusting as children in how we love God and our neighbor.

May the saints of God pray for us, that we may become like them."

THE DOORS! THE DOORS!

You will notice that all during Bright Week, the week following Pascha/Easter, all the doors in the ikonostas remain open and the curtain is drawn aside. This is done to emphasize that Christ, by His Resurrection, had opened the doors to the Kingdom of Heaven to us.

The opening of the doors and the pulling aside of the curtain during the services of the church is very symbolic. They hide from view the altar during the part of the Liturgy that has to do with the hidden years of Jesus, the years when He is not mentioned in the Scriptures or the dark hours when He was on the Cross. Both the doors and curtain are open when, for example, the Little Entrance is made with the Gospel, signifying the coming of the Word.

The Sacrament of Eucharist is a mystery and is not fully understood by us. It is wrong for a celebrant to keep the doors open throughout the Divine Liturgy.



"O BOY, I GOTTA TALK TO GOD—I SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE OLD ANSWERING MACHINES."

GOD'S VOICE MAIL

Most of us have now learned to live with "voice mail" as a necessary part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing the following: Thank you for calling Heaven. For English, press 1, for Spanish press 2, for all other languages, press "0"... Please select one of the following options: Press 1 for requests - press 2 for thanksgiving - press 3 for complaints - press 4 for all other inquiries. I am sorry all of our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order in which it was received. Please stay on the line. If you would like to speak to: God, press 1 - Jesus, press 2, Holy Spirit, press 3. If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, press 4. To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, then enter his or her social security number followed by the "pound" sign. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666. For reservations for Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6. Our computers show that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow. The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local Pastor.

THE LITANY OFTEN OMITTED

Many priests and even bishops omit the Litany for the Catechumens when serving the Divine Liturgy. This is a very short series of prayers which follows soon after the reading of the Holy Gospel. It begins: "Pray unto the Lord, ye cathechumens." This litany was inserted for those who are preparing themselves with studies to receive Holy Baptism.

Generally speaking, we do not have many Catechumens today and for this reason many people do not understand why this litany is preserved today.

We must always remember that the Divine Liturgy is not being served only in the church we are attending and only for our benefit. The Divine Liturgy, the Great Mystery, is celebrated by the whole Universal Church somewhere at some time. There are catechumens somewhere. They have been moved by God to seek the truth and are preparing themselves to accept the Orthodox Christian faith. This is happening all over the world in China, Japan, India, Africa, etc. The Church prays for them as if they were standing in our own parish Church.

Catechumens are also among the infants who have not as yet been baptized and chrismated.

If we carefully listen to the words of the prayers, although we may already be baptized, there are times when we can reaffirm our wish that God would teach us the word of truth or reveal to us the gospel of righteousness.

THE MELIA CENTER IN JERUSALEM

As we recently journeyed through Great Lent to Pascha, our thoughts focused on Jesus and His life. For Christians, there is deep religious significance in all places associated with Him. It is for this reason that we call the region the Holy Land.

Today the land where Jesus lived is under siege. Caught in the midst of this strife are Orthodox Christians who struggle daily to survive. Within this community is an organization that is quietly bringing people together and giving them hope.

In 1927, the Arab Orthodox Society was created in response to a tragedy. A Palestinian woman with no means of support took her own life. This act of desperation greatly shocked other women in the community. One woman stepped forward and took positive action so an event such as this would never happen again. Melia Halabi taught women to support themselves through embroidery.

Nora Kort, a student of Melia's, was trained to take over the work of her teacher in guiding the organization. Today, Ms. Kort is not only the head of the Arab Orthodox Society, but she is also IOCC's (International Orthodox Christian Charities) representative in Jerusalem.

In 1991, the Melia Art and Training Center of the Arab Orthodox Society was established. It was named to honor the memory of the unmarried schoolteacher who had helped so many women. Beginning with five Orthodox Christian women, the center has now grown to 500. The women, who work out of their homes, are trained and must pass a course. They then receive a certificate that attests to the high quality of their handiwork. They are known as the best embroiderers throughout the Holy Land.

The Melia Center is a highly respected Orthodox presence in this region. Moslem women now work with the Christian women. Moslem men encourage their wives, daughters, and sisters to participate. In an area of where men are unable to work and unemployment is reported to be over 90%, the women's embroidery is an important means of support for families. In this male-dominated society, women are becoming sole breadwinners. This, in turn, is helping to expand their roles in the family, especially decision-making.

The women are very grateful to the Melia Center because it has opened doors of opportunity for them. Besides being employed, they are also learning about their Palestinian heritage through their research into the embroidery designs.

In 2000, Mother Raphaela of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in Otego, New York, happened upon the Melia Center while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She began ordering items to sell through the monastery's catalog. A number of beautiful items are available with new articles always being added.

In November, 2002, Mother Raphaela returned to the Holy Land. Lack of time and space prevent me from detailing the desperate situation of the people that she described.

When asked what we can do to help, Mother Raphaela replied, "Pray. Be aware of what is going on. Know that there are two sides to every story. People are living hand-to-mouth, so consider offering financial support. Anything we do can help and will be greatly appreciated. They (the Palestinian Orthodox) feel so isolated. The situation seems hopeless," then she quickly added, "but there is God."

And "...with God nothing will be impossible." LUKE 1:37

For information on ordering the Palestinian embroidery, please contact:

Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery
144 Bert Washburn Road
Otego, NY 13825-2265
(607) 432-3179
www.holymyrrhbearers.com

Also, donations may be sent directly to:

Myrrhbearers Arab Orthodox Society
P.O. Box 21358
Jerusalem, Israel

Margaret Pysarchyk

* * * * * *

The devil is willing for a person to confess Christianity as long as he does not practice it.

MOTHER'S DAY

During this past Great Lent, our daily Bible Readings were taken from Proverbs. In Proverbs 6:20 we read: "...do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck, When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you."

What are some of the laws of your mother which have helped you through life?

Perhaps the first one can be called the "law of the warm kitchen." When you ran home from school on a cold winter's day, the kitchen was always warm from baking and cooking and full of mother's love. She had something ready for you to snack and was there to hear about your day at school.

The second law we can call the "law of mother's perspective." When you came to her all upset over some childish matter, she would say: "Pay no attention, ten years from now you will have forgotten all about it." That helped you put things in perspective.

You can think of many other laws that were peculiar to your mother but, above all, for most of us there was her "law of faith." Most of our mothers were blessed with mothers who had an unswerving trust in God that kept her strong and gentle amid the fears, pressures, and trying times that she faced. Her remark "God will help," "Boh pomozhe," said it all.

Mothers today, you, too, are writing "laws" for your children. What will they be? Will they help your child while they go through life while on this earth?

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WINTER'S GRACE

Imagine yourself on Pascha morning in a garden, like Mary Magdalen, alone with your bewildering thoughts, weeping about something that you think should be there but isn't. Like her, we all have pain, some personal trauma. We have confusion. We may be thinking, "I thought the direction of life would be clearer by this time. I thought I'd know what I'm good at and others would appreciate me and there would be a straight path to the future. Instead, there is just this big empty road with no sign on it, and I'm not sure where I'm heading. I'm lonely. People have let me down. People die, people change, people leave, people stay but don't have time for me or don't care how badly I need them. People don't notice me, or they've stopped noticing me. Life has unexpectedly turned out something like a Picasso painting; the kind you walk up to and ask nervously, 'What is it?'

"I am guilty, I've done things I regret, but not enough to make amends, and I'm not even sure how to go about trying if I wanted to. I don't want to get used to myself being this way, but neither do I seem to have the power to change. Nothing is as it is supposed to be – as I expected it to be."

Where is God in all of this? Where do you go to find Him? Where are the answers? Not in the garden with some sentimental image of a God we have crated for our convenience. That Jesus isn't big enough or powerful enough to deal with our deep-felt hurt, confusion and guilt.

The glorious news and the frightening news of Pascha is that He is not here in this garden grave. He's alive. And you cannot follow Him while trying to figure it all out, attempting to manage your life in your own way.

Most likely you will leave this quiet place of contemplation, this garden, to take up a more demanding activity. But that's life too. But in the quiet moments punctuating the hubbub, remember when you leave that you did not leave alone. Jesus will not stay buried for you here any more than He stayed buried for Mary Magdalene. You will find Him unexpectedly even in the most devastating moments and places of life. He promised that where we are there He is also. (John 14:3)

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who raised Eutychus from the dead after he fell out of a window while listening to a sermon?
2. Which prophet revived the son of the Zarephtah widow?
3. Who raised Dorcas from the dead?
4. What man of Bethany was raised from his tomb by Jesus?
5. A man came back to life when his body came into contact with the buried bones of what prophet?
6. What was the name of the town where Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead?
7. According to Matthew, what marvelous event occurred in conjunction with Jesus' death on the cross?
8. Whose daughter did Jesus bring back to life?

ANSWERS:
1. Paul (Acts 20:9-10)
2. Elijah (1 Kings 17:17-22)
3. Peter (Acts 9:36-41)
4. Lazarus (John 11:1-44)
5. Elisha (2 Kings 13:20-21)
6. Nain (Luke 7:11-15)
7. Many holy people came out of their graves (Matthew 27:52-53)
8. Jairus (Luke 8:41-42,49-55)

WOW! IT'S OVER!

Pre-Lent , Great Lent, Holy Week all those church services, all that fasting, all the extra time spent in prayer and all the extra good deeds and donations given – now what? Should you go back to your old routine, the one you had back in January before all this started? Of course not, you should be a better person than you were before you kept the Lenten disciplines.

Try to practice fasting, prayer, and giving of alms or doing good works throughout the year. Perhaps not in as strict a way as you did during the Lenten period, but better than you did prior to that period. Live a God-centered life.

* * * * * *

People can fail many times, but they aren't failures until they begin to blame someone else.

Undique (from everywhere)

We can't choose how to feel; but we can choose what to do about it.

Clement of Alexandria asks: What help is it to you that God is God, if He is not <u>your</u> God?"

The one thing the Disciples did not do was to celebrate Easter/Pascha and then go their way and forget the whole thing. There would be no Christians in the world today if they had!

To be responsive to the vital task of passing on the faith, we must focus our efforts on faith formation and transforming the lives of the emerging generations.

Many years ago there were Sunshine Committees in parishes. They sent cards to the sick and homebound who were deeply touched when they were remembered with a card and a promise of a prayer.

There is a difference between an autocephalous and an autonomous church. Autocephalous means a church which is completely self-headed and self-governing and is not accountable to any other jurisdiction. Autonomous means one which is under the jurisdiction of another (a Mother Church) and has limited self-governing authority.

God provided the armor (Ephesians 6), but we must put it on.

Fasting is a sacrificial spiritual discipline. For people healthy in body and mind, avoiding food for a brief time can aid prayer, strengthen self-control, increase spiritual awareness and draw one closer to God.

The Hebrew and Greek words for "angel" both mean "messenger." They are God's servants, not independent contractors. We pray to God, we worship God, we cry to God for help. And God sends messengers.

Isn't the Bible mostly the act of recording the spoken word of God? The parables Jesus told to the crowds? This is why the Scriptures read aloud in church are so much more meaningful than when we sit quietly and read them to ourselves.

For an Orthodox it is hard to pray without icons. An icon gathers and concentrates prayer, just as a magnifying glass gathers scattered rays into one burning focal point.



Editor's Notes

We have had a very cold, snowy and lingering winter, so we welcome May with joy with its promise of balmy weather and greening of the earth. How can we not consider the wondrous works of God?

I remember May with much nostalgia. For many years in my childhood, I made cornucopias from paper doilies, filled them with wild flowers, which I picked in the fields and hung them on the door knobs of various homes in our neighborhood. This was brought to mind by a greeting card which I received from Mary Goomas, which depicted a front door with a hanging basket full of flowers. What happy memories!

As I write this our nation is involved in a war. We humbly pray that there will not be too many new graves of young people at which tears will be shed this Memorial Day - May 26.

Several months ago I asked whether anyone had access to a copy of "The Most Useful Knowledge for the Russian Orthodox Young People." Unfortunately, I did not receive any response of available copies but I did receive many requests to purchase a copy if I did get some.

Have you noticed that since kneeling has been discouraged on Sundays, no one kneels during the week? It seems that most kneelers in churches can be removed, since they are only being used for young children to stand and play on.

I want to thank all of you who continue to call me and write to me. It is true that friends help one to bear burdens and grief.

With this month's issue we begin our 52nd year of publication. We continue to grow with your help. So many more of you are sponsoring Packet Plans or sending in gift subscriptions. We are not subsidized, so we do need your help.

God be with you.

Matushka Nina Stroyen

PRESS FUND

Thank you/Spasebo for helping us to keep publishing William Kuzemchak, Irene Allen, Anita Poll, Steve Alushin, Nina Baker, Marie Derkasch, David Halchak, Don David James, Helen Kotter, Ethel Watlock, George Margitich, Diane David, Tom Swift, Nick Hadzega, Sandra Serafin, William Bybel, Anna Dorozynski, Catherine Shaffchick, John and Hope Lukatchek, John Maciejewski, Mary Ellen Papp, Victor Niebuhr, Helen Trafan, Mary Kinn, Helen Magyari, Anonymous, Ethel Watlock, Doris Rusinko.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Christine's Family by Charles and Catherine Dekilas

Joe and Sasha by Matushka Nina

PRAYERS FOR REPOSE

"in Blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the souls of your departed servants, and remember them forever."

John Oleyar and Nicholas Uschak requested by Mrs. Stephen Soltis

Fr. Averky Bondarchuk and **Maria Dran Bondarchuk** requested by Michael and Edith Bondarchuk

Mary and Joseph Fedorchak requested by Fr. Peter and Matushka Charlotte Staviski

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Fr. Basil Stroyen requested by Anonymous, Olga Krasofsky, George and Eileen Chwan, Mary Kinn, Michael and Edith Bondarchuk, Matushka Nina

LIGHTER MOMENT

A secretary was leaving the office when she saw the CEO standing by the shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. "Listen," the CEO said, "this is a very important document. Do you know how this thing works?" The secretary turned the machine on, inserted the paper and pressed the start button. "Great," the CEO said as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."



When Betty Kovach comes on a tour with us, we always get special treatment at a hotel in Slovakia, where she is a friend of the head chef. He always prepares something special for her which she shares with us. One of the dishes she shared was "Fasirky obalene v ceste" or dough covered meatballs. They are made with cooked meat. What better time to try them than now when you have ham left over from your Easter table?

DOUGH COVERED MEATBALLS

3 cups mashed potatoes
1 1/2 cups flour, or more
1 egg, slightly beaten
1 cup cooked, leftover meat, finely ground
1/2 cup bacon, chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 Tbls. shortening
salt and pepper

Use any leftover cooked meat such as chicken, pork, ham or ground beef. Saute chopped onion in shortening until lightly golden. Add half of the onion to finely ground cooked meat, season with salt and pepper as needed. Boil potatoes in the skins, cool slightly, peel and mash. Add flour and egg. Knead until smooth. Roll out dough. Cut into rounds with glass. Take a spoonful of meat and place in center of round. Pinch edges shut and form into a meatball. Carefully place in a pot of simmering salted water. Cook until tender. Drain. Fry chopped bacon, add remaining onion, and sprinkle over meatballs upon serving.

Note: European recipes are not as detailed as American ones. These are good. Some of our friends like them with spaghetti sauce.

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SOBORNOST

The Council of Bishops

Since bishops, as Cyprian emphasized, share in the one episcopate, it was only natural that they should meet together in a council to discuss their common problems and to make conciliar decisions. Ecclesiologically and dogmatically the *synod* is **necessary** for the consecration of a new bishop. The sacrament of holy orders, then, is the ecclesiological foundation of the "council of bishops," because, as we have already seen, the "council" is the essential of the fullness of each local church, of her *pleroma* as the Body of Christ.

It is the mission of the Church in the world, her "working" in the time and history that gives the synod its second function: to be the **common voice,** the common testimony of several (or all) churches in their ontological unity. Thus the Apostolic Council met, not as a regular and necessary "organ" of the Church, but in connection with a problem arising out of the missionary situation of the Church. A. Pokrovskii, in his Russian classic The Synods of the Early Church, tells us that there is no evidence of any synod of bishops of this type until the second century. Instead, Fr. George Florovsky explains:

This system first originates in Asia Minor, where the bishops gathered to make a stand against the "New Prophecy" of Montanism. During the third century, the institution of councils spreads to North Africa. The council becomes the "best device for witnessing, articulating and proclaiming the common minds of the Church, and the accord and unanimity of local churches."

Fr. Michael Dahulich

Home Bible Reading Schedule

MAY 2003

1 Acts 2:38-43	17 Acts 9:20-31
2 Acts 3:1-5	**18 Acts 9:32-42**
3 Acts 3:11-16	19 Acts 10:1-16
4 Acts 5:12-20	20 Acts 10:21-33
5 Acts 3:19-26	21 Acts 14:6-18
6 Acts 4:1-10	22 Acts 10:34-43
7 Acts 4:13-22	23 Acts 10:44-11:10
8 Acts 4:23-31	24 Acts 12:1-11
9 Acts 5:1-11	**25 Acts 11:19-30**
10 Acts 5:21-33	26 Acts 12:12-17
11 Acts 6:1-7	27 Acts 12:26-13:12
12 Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60	28 Acts 13:13-24
13 Acts 8:5-17	29 Acts14:20-27
14 Acts 8:18-25	30 Acts 15:5-34
15 Acts 8:26-39	31 Acts 15:35-41
16 Acts 8:40-9:19	

BIBLE STUDY

All the epistle readings from Pascha/Easter through Pentecost are from the Book of Acts of the Apostles. The Acts gives us the history of the foundation of the Church and tells how it was established among people of different races, opinions, and degrees of knowledge. It is a manual both of the missionary labour and of Church doctrine and discipline. As the central book of the New Testament, standing between the Gospels and Epistles, it helps us to see how the holy life of Christians has its source in the life of Christ.

In the very beginning of the Book, St. Luke states that he intended it to be a continuation of his Gospel. He writes in 1:1 "the former treatise I have made." In studying the Book you will note that in the first sixteen chapters the narrative is given in the third person. It then shifts to the first person plural as "we have...".

The Book of Acts follows the spread of Christianity from Jerusalem to the establishment of the Church in Rome and St. Paul's going there as a prisoner. In between, we read of the Church spreading to Palestine, Antioch, Galatia, Macedonia, Greece and Asia.

The Book was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul in Rome for it ends before his death. It is believed that it was written sometime between 62 A.D. and middle of the second century.

NO NEED FOR PRAYER?

Even some people who claim to be Christians have a self-sufficient attitude toward prayer. They think because they have brains, experience, and technology, prayer isn't necessary. They protest: "Who needs prayer, we can solve our own problems. Furthermore, God knows what we need, why do we have to ask?"

They should well follow the example of Henry Stanley (1841-1904), the famous African explorer who wrote: "On all my expeditions, prayer made me stronger, morally and mentally, than any of my non-praying companions. It did not blind my eyes, or dull my mind, or close my ears; but on the contrary, it gave me confidence. It did more; it gave me joy and pride in my work, and lifted me hopefully over the 1,500 miles of forest tracks, eager to face the day's perils."

Jesus prayed and He told us to pray always "and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). Without prayerful dependence on God, we lack what it takes to do His will day after day. Prayer enables us to draw on our Father's limitless resources of grace. His free unmerited love and favor. Nothing is too great or too small to bring to God.